

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE

Gioacchino Rossini



The Barber of Seville, English Synopsis:

Setting: Seville, Spain in 1775.

Act 1: The opera begins in the courtyard of Dr. Bartolo's house in Seville. Count Almaviva has fallen in love with Rosina, Bartolo's young ward, but Bartolo intends to marry her himself to secure her inheritance. Disguised as a poor student named Lindoro, the Count serenades Rosina from beneath her balcony. Figaro, the clever barber of Seville, arrives and reveals that he can help the Count win Rosina's heart. The act is filled with witty banter and sets the stage for the Count's efforts to court Rosina.

Act 2: Count Almaviva, now disguised as "Lindoro," enters Dr. Bartolo's house as a music teacher. His plan is to secretly woo Rosina while teaching her music. However, Bartolo is suspicious of the Count's intentions and is determined to marry Rosina that very night. Figaro arrives to give Bartolo a shave, and in the chaos that ensues, the lovers manage to exchange notes. Rosina learns of the Count's true identity, and the act ends with a sense of hope for their love.

Act 3: In the final act, Figaro and the Count continue their efforts to rescue Rosina from Bartolo's clutches. Disguised as a soldier, the Count arrives at Bartolo's house and presents a false order for Bartolo to marry Rosina to him immediately. This creates confusion, and Rosina reveals her love for "Lindoro" in front of Bartolo. A hilarious and chaotic confrontation between the characters ensues. Eventually, Bartolo is outwitted, and Rosina and the Count declare their love for each other. The opera concludes with a joyful ensemble celebrating the power of love and wit.

The Barber of Seville is a fast-paced and humorous opera, filled with clever disguises, mistaken identities, and delightful music. It remains a beloved classic in the world of opera, known for its comedic charm and memorable arias.